



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

January 10,
1948
No 1503

PRICE THREEPENCE

EXCITING DAYS IN TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Life on a Mid-Ocean Mountain Top

THIS month is going to be an exciting one for the islanders of Tristan da Cunha, sometimes called the loneliest place in the world. Two ships are expected to visit this seven-mile-wide mountain top in the wastes of the South Atlantic which is the inhospitable home of 224 people, mostly of British descent.

On January 11 a South African Navy frigate will leave Cape Town for Tristan da Cunha, carrying the normal yearly supplies; but more exciting is the prospect of the expedition to be sent out this month by a South African canning company to explore the possibility of setting up a fish-canning factory on the bleak, storm-swept island.

The expedition, accompanied by scientists, is being led by the Revd C. P. Lawrence, who was a naval chaplain during the war and has the welfare of the Tristan people very much at heart. The Archbishop of Cape Town, who visited Tristan in March 1947—the first archbishop ever to go there—is also interested in the project.

If the expedition's report is favourable, it may well mean the end of the dour struggle for existence which these lonely people have waged since Tristan da Cunha became a British possession in 1816.

Before the war one ship a year was sent to Tristan with supplies. Occasionally a passing ship would stop, and then the islanders would seek to barter with the sailors, offering fish, seabirds' eggs, and souvenirs, for such vital necessities as lengths of cloth, old clothes, needles and thread, oil for lamps, and so on, as well as fresh meat. The islanders' cattle live wild and they kill them for meat and

make moccasin shoes from their hides.

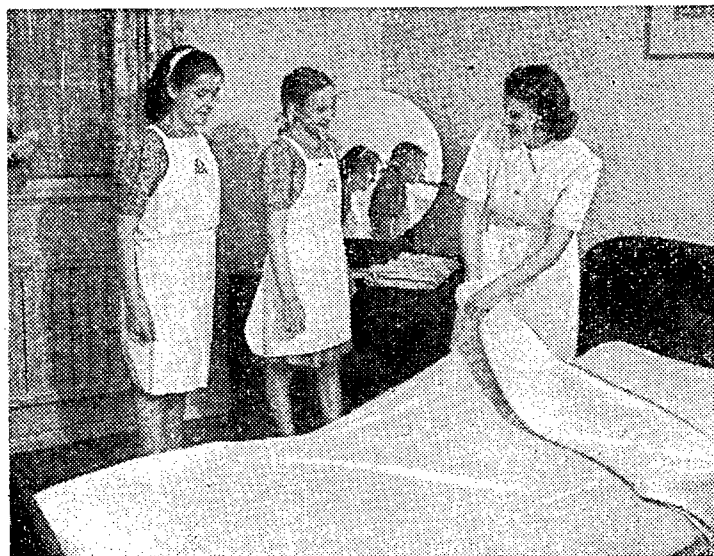
During the recent war the Tristan people had a temporary respite from their hard life; for the Admiralty established (secretly, of course) a meteorological and wireless station, with a Naval party, on the island. For the first time in their lives the people used money. By working for the Navy men they earned money and bought naval stores to supplement their normal diet—which consists mostly of potatoes and fish. This meant unheard-of luxuries, such as chocolate, and it also provided tooth-paste, which the children persisted in treating as a sweet; they would swallow whole chunks of it unless watched!

For the first time they saw a talking film. This was on board HMS Cilicia, an armed merchantman, and the film was Walt Disney's Bambi. They were enchanted with this wonder of wonders, and the sailors had to show them the film over and over again.

After the war, however, the Naval detachment departed, and although they left stores behind, and the meteorological and wireless station remained, life for the islanders soon began to resume its old grim aspect. This has meant, for the fishermen, facing the giant waves of the South

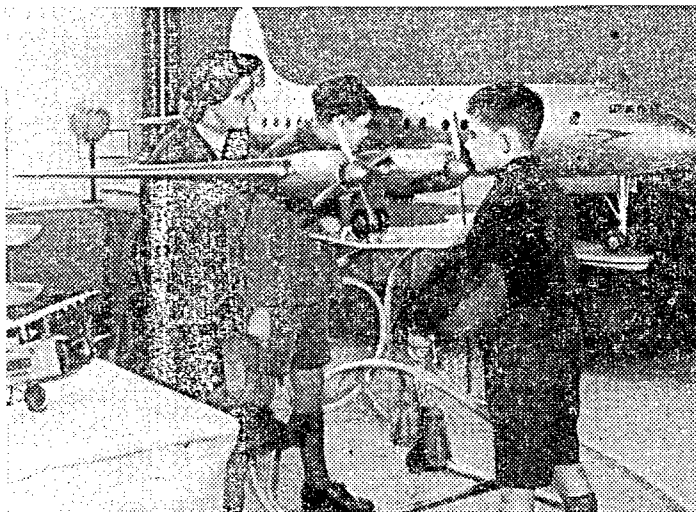
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FUTURE HOUSEWIVES



At Darfield, near Barnsley, Yorkshire, the Foulstone Modern School has a fully furnished flat, and each week two of the senior girls take charge of it. In this picture the domestic science mistress is showing two of the girls the correct way to make a bed.

LITTLE BIG PLANE



A BEAC stewardess and two young visitors who have come straight from a football game to examine a model of a Con-Constellation at the Highways of the Air Exhibition at the Royal Geographical Society, London—open until January 15.

Seeds of Peace

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has arranged for chestnut seed to be sent from China to Italy. Italy has been suffering from a severe outbreak of chestnut blight, and the Chinese seed is the only variety of chestnut known which is blight-resisting. So far 40 lbs of the seed, Castanea mollissima, have been sent by air to Rome.

China in turn is to receive seeds through the same agency—pecan seeds for experimental work. The pecan is a species of hickory nut, like a walnut.

Another agricultural experiment fostered by FAO is the sending of hybrid maize seed to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and Yugoslavia. These seeds are the result of years of research in the United States, where it has been found that the yield from them showed an increase of over 20 per cent more than ordinary maize. Now they are to be tested where most of Europe's maize is produced.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Continued from previous column

Atlantic in their frail canvas boats, and, for the young men, the yearly visit to the neighbouring uninhabited Nightingale Island—where they often stay for weeks—to catch penguins, useful for food and oil.

In February 1946 a new chaplain, the Revd A. E. Handley, went to live there, and he and his wife have written home describing the growing difficulties of their strange "parish": of careful islanders husbanding their potatoes and of improvident ones having none left; of how Mr Handley did his best to ration the dwindling naval stores; of the children having two weeks holiday from school in order to help plant potatoes.

Let us hope they get their fish-canning factory. With an industry of their own, and a wireless station, the people of Tristan da Cunha will no longer be cut off from the rest of mankind.

ANY UMBRELLAS TO MEND?

AN umbrella repairer is reported recently to have said that, by a Board of Trade regulation, he is forbidden to repair an umbrella which has more than twelve ribs, unless he removes the ribs in excess of that number. However, modern umbrellas usually have eight ribs, so most of us do not have to worry in that respect.

Though comparatively modern as a rain shield, having been first used for that purpose by Jonas Hanway about 1750, the umbrella has been a symbol of rank and authority in Eastern countries from time immemorial. Indeed, it was through seeing an umbrella being held over the head of a prince in a procession at Teheran that Hanway realised its possibilities for the English climate.

What is believed to have been the largest umbrella was owned by an African potentate. Made in London half a century ago, it had a stick 15 feet long and was capable of covering 12 persons!

Indian maharajahs sport magnificent, jewelled umbrellas or parasols, and in Burma the umbrella is revered more than anywhere else in the world. One King of Burma used to describe himself as ruling over "all the great umbrella-bearing chiefs of the Eastern countries."

NO ROOM FOR PILCHARDS

THERE is a crisis in the pilchard fishing industry in Cornwall, where a fleet of 50 boats and 300 men may have to remain in port while the sea is teeming with fish, because there is no available storage.

Since the beginning of November, there have been tremendous numbers of pilchards off the Cornish coast, and one curing firm alone has tanked nearly 1000 tons of them. Their tanks are now full and can take no more.

A College For Niue

NIUE—so remote from the Cook Islands that it has been called the "rockiest, loneliest, and loveliest" island in the Pacific—has built a college in celebration of the first coming of Christianity to the island a century ago.

Each of the twelve villages in the island was given an exact share in laying out the foundations. The site was pegged out, portions were lined off, and each portion had a peg bearing the name of a village.

On certain days the whole populations of various villages would walk to the head village. Large rocks had to be carried from other parts of the island to make the foundations. The men, women, and children would start early in the morning, singing lustily as they went off in single file to fetch rocks. They worked till late afternoon, then, tired but happy, they would walk back to their villages. Another day, people from two or three other villages would come to fill up their allotted portion.

A great shout went up when the foundations were finished and cemented. Then men from the villages began to labour. Framework for a limestone wall one-and-a-half feet thick had to be erected. Fibrolite for the roof, and doors and windows were ordered from New Zealand. Sand, which is scarce in Niue, had to be brought in and lime burnt to make the lime concrete. All interior woodwork was of native wood, cut, turned, oiled, and polished.

The villagers also collected over £1000 for building materials.

SHOW A LEG!



Morning brush-up for a Zoo giraffe.

JAPAN'S OVERCROWDED ISLANDS

THOUGH the treaty of peace with Germany is as far off as ever there are signs that steps will soon be taken in the drafting of peace terms for Japan. China and other interested countries have recently been pressing for definite action in this matter.

Although America has been playing a predominant part in the occupation of Japan, the responsibility for making peace with that country is not hers alone. The working out of the basic features of that treaty will be the task of the Far Eastern Commission, on which are representatives of eleven countries: The United Kingdom, America, the USSR, China, France, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, and the Philippines. The Commission meets weekly in Washington.

What will future Japan look like? Although it is rather difficult to foresee what exactly the eleven nations will decide about Japan's political standing, it is much easier and, to a certain degree, more important for the future of the Far East to visualise the economic picture of post-treaty Japan.

Many vital developments have already taken place in and

around Japan, and there is little doubt that Japan will be restricted to the four main islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, and Kyushu, a total area of some 147,000 square miles. On this relatively small area there are now living over 78 million people—an increase of five and a half millions in two years owing to repatriation from Japan's former empire. Consequently, Japan has an extremely high density of population. Their employment will be a great problem, for, under the Allied reparation programme, Japan may lose nearly three-quarters of her basic steel industry, which normally produces almost 12 million tons of steel a year.

Allied Nations' Mistrust

When the dismantling is completed, Japan will be unable to produce more than 3,500,000 tons of steel for the supply of all her shipbuilding and heavy and light engineering. She will obviously be much worse off than Germany, a nation of 60 millions, which is permitted to turn out 11,500,000 tons a year.

The reason why such a low level of steel output (upon which all other industries depend) has been prescribed for the Japanese is that no one trusts them! The Allied nations fear that, freed from the occupation, Japan may use her foundries and factories for turning out weapons of war once again. Yet, no matter how true or how false such an opinion may be, the Japanese have no way of earning their livelihood other than by making goods for sale abroad in order to buy food required by so many millions.

Japanese agriculture is not able to support them. Early last year the average daily food ration in Tokyo dropped to 1350 calories per inhabitant!

Difficult Problems

As with Germany, therefore, the permitted level of industry in Japan is likely to be an important point in the discussions on the peace treaty. The Allied statesmen will have to agree on two things: how to make sure that Japan remains a peaceful State, and how to make Japan economically sound. It will not be easy to solve both of these questions satisfactorily.

The real solution is a demilitarisation of Japan's will. The Japanese must be made to realise that aggressive war is wrong. News which comes from Japan on progress in this direction is often contradictory. There are reports of her humility and desire to lead the world in the work for peace, but others speak of an increased nationalistic fervour.

The truth lies probably somewhere in the middle. But the real hope for the Far East is that a genuine revival of democracy—not government through ballot or bullet—will prevent any concentration of power in the hands of a few fanatics. If this happens the Japanese and their former enemies will once again be on good terms.

Italy Becomes a Republic

For the first time since she was proclaimed a united kingdom in 1861, Italy has been officially declared a republic.

By a great majority the Italian Constituent Assembly (Parliament) recently approved of the new Constitution, and thus the dream of Mazzini who, with Garibaldi and Cavour, was one of the architects of Italian independence and liberty, has come true.

The great bell of the Parliamentary building was tolled to announce that Italy's republic had come into being, and a copy of the new Constitution was ceremoniously presented to the President, Signor de Nicola.

The first article of the new Constitution states that: Italy is a democratic Republic founded on work. Sovereignty belongs to the people, who exercise it in the forms and within the limits of the Constitution.

Under the new Constitution the right of workers to adequate wages and to a paid holiday is established, and their right to strike and to share in the management of undertakings is also recognised.

Lovers of freedom everywhere will welcome the new Republic into the family of nations.

Showing Ourselves to the World

In its annual report the British Council says that as a nation we cannot expect understanding if we do not dispel ignorance. The report shows how the Council has been expanding its good work of telling the world about the British way of life.

An interesting feature of its year's work has been the exhibition in several countries of paintings and drawings by British children from three to seventeen years of age.

The British Council now has its representatives at work in about 50 overseas countries. During the year 564 visitors from other countries were invited here for professional studies or to see our way of life, more than twice as many as in the previous year. In 1946 no fewer than 600 teachers of English attended nine summer schools in Europe alone.

People in foreign lands are interested to see British periodicals, so, at 1168 British Council centres in 85 countries, about 1800 British periodicals—among them the C.N.—are regularly made available.

Lecturers on Britain made 97 tours compared with 70 in 1945-46. These tours were in 28 countries. In Czechoslovakia the number of societies interested in Britain increased from two in 1945 to 35 in 1947.

These are just a few of the British Council's activities which are doing an excellent service.

KITTEN AND KIPPER

A MINOR problem faced a party of firemen in a house in Farnworth, near Bolton, the other day. A small kitten had found its way up a bedroom chimney, and, despite all the efforts of the firemen, working both from the fire-place and the roof, it refused to move. Then one of the men had a brain-wave. He went out, bought a kipper, and dangled it in front of the animal's nose. Without more ado the kitten, a trifle sooty but unhurt, followed the kipper down to safety.

WORLD NEWS REEL

AIR-MINDED PAKISTAN. The Dominion of Pakistan is to develop the airports at Karachi and Chittagong to international standards. Second class airfields are to be established at Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Dacca. Class three airfields will be provided at Hyderabad (Sind), Jacobabad, Multan, Quetta, and Sylhet.

Britain exported 10,000 motor-bicycles last year, compared with only 100 ten years ago. The United States are among our best customers.

A party of 550 British emigrants to New Zealand left Southampton not long ago in the *Atlantis*. It was the largest party to sail for New Zealand since the emigration scheme began last July, and consisted of unmarried men and women between 20 and 35.

A general election in Eire is to take place early in February, Mr de Valera stated recently.

King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, who abdicated in June, 1944, died recently at Alexandria at the age of 78. He came to the throne in 1900 and in 1922 allowed Mussolini to take over power.

WELCOME RETURN. The International Emergency Food Council have allocated 54,880,000 lbs of rice to Britain this year.

A good will mission of Australian scientists is to leave for India early this year, following the invitation of the Indian Government.

The 173 Friesian heifers given by the Dutch Government to aid the Agricultural Disaster Fund were auctioned at Reading and fetched £38,881.

The profits (nearly 500,000 marks) made from the British Army of Occupation's tattoos in Berlin and Dortmund last summer are to be given to German children's welfare organisations.

GRATE-FULL. Coal rationing has ended in Eire because of increased supplies from Britain.

The Spanish Government is to spend £500,000,000 on repairing the main roads of Spain.

In Turkey a man named Veli Sahiboglu claims to be 139 years of age. Another famous old Turk, Zaro Aga, was said to be 160 years of age when he died 13 years ago.

An Indian officer will from April 1 next be Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Of 10,000 British officers serving with the Indian Army before August 15 last—India's Independence Day—fewer than 300 are still serving. These have remained at their own request.

HOME NEWS REEL

BEEFY. At Worcester, recently, a Hereford cross-bred bullock weighing one ton two cwt was sold. This was eight cwt short of what was probably the heaviest bullock ever known in Britain, the famous Durham ox (born in 1796), which weighed one ton ten cwt.

The Earl of Stradbroke, who died recently, aged 85, was the son of the 2nd Earl, who served with the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War.

Princess Elizabeth has given £13,000 of her wedding-present money to different charities.

OVERDUE. A letter delivered at Colchester recently, was posted in 1911 at Ipswich, only 18 miles away. The letter informed the addressee, Mrs K. Howe, of the birth of her niece—who is now 36 years old!

The new Chairman of the Imperial College of Science and Technology is Lord Falmouth. He succeeds the late Lord Rayleigh.

Lord Nuffield's recent gift of £50,000 to Lincoln College, Oxford, to found three research Fellowships in science and allied medicine, brings his gifts of money to over £26,000,000.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

FORTITUDE. The Guides' highest award for courage—the Badge of Fortitude—has recently been given to a London Ranger and a Welsh Guide for their magnificent spirit during long illness. They are Angela Tidmarsh of the 7th North Lambeth Company and Shirley James of the 1st East Glamorgan Post Company.

Of South Africa's £1,000,000 gift to the British nation, £95,000 has been given to the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs to provide holiday houses and camps for boys and girls. The Association now has 140,000 members in 2200 clubs.

At the Highways of the Air Exhibition at the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society in London the Women's Junior Air Corps have a stand showing how their members are

The new Fellowships will be known as the Nuffield (Penicillin) Research Fellowships.

NANNY. Mrs M. A. Goldey, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, who died recently at the age of 93, had been a nurse in one family for 74 years.

More than 70 blind people are parishioners of the London church of St Marks, Kennington, and the vicar, the Revd H. Wallace Bird, has distributed to them copies of the parish magazine in Braille.

An exhibition of racing cars is being held at Henly Hall, Osna-burgh Street, London, W, January 6-17. Admission for boys 1s, for adults 2s. The British Racing Drivers' Club have organised it in aid of the Victoria League (founded to promote Empire Friendship).

LOOKING AHEAD. Staffordshire education authorities have decided that all new schools shall be provided with television aerials.

Miss Dorothy Maynard of Sidcup, Kent, who lost her right arm during the war, recently won the bronze medal for the year's best pianoforte performance at the Blackheath Conservatoire of Music.

taught meteorology, navigation, and other elements of aviation.

FORTY. 1948 is the fortieth anniversary of the start of the Scout Movement. Scouting for Boys, written by Baden-Powell, was first published in 1908.

What will Scouts be doing in 40 years' time, and how will they look? That is what Scouts visiting their stand at the School-boys' Own Exhibition in London are asked to portray in a drawing competition, for which prizes are offered.

King's Scout Bernard Wiggins, age 16, Troop Leader of the 2nd South-East Leeds Troop, has been awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for his great courage and endurance in adversity.

Of the 20 boys who emigrated to Australia recently under the "Big Foot" Scheme, ten were Scouts.

CYCLING ACROSS CANADA

LAST summer a young Canadian, Robert McArthur, aged 21, set out from Vancouver for a spin on his home-made bicycle. He hoped it would stand hard wear, for he intended to ride to Montreal—a mere matter of 3000 miles!

When he left Vancouver, Robert had 50 dollars in his pocket. He soon used that up and did odd jobs at places on the road to earn enough to buy himself food and other necessities. Many were his adventures on the lonely roads of the Canadian wilds, and he often met bears and deer. While he pedalled and pushed his trusty machine through the Rocky Mountains he wore out most of the 19 tyres he used on his journey.

As he slogged on through forest and across prairie, autumn changed to winter, and on the roads of northern Ontario he had to struggle through deep snow. The last 50 miles of his journey were his worst, for the road was ice-bound and he skidded and fell frequently. But at last he came slithering into Montreal, triumphant, having accomplished his ride in four months and 26 days.

Courage in the Mine

THE British Empire Medal has been awarded to John Peter Scuffham, aged 16, for his courage and leadership following an explosion in a coal mine.

John is a surveyor at Barnsley Main Colliery, Yorkshire, and at the time of the explosion he was in charge of three other boys carrying out surveying work. All four were badly burnt and the lights went out, but John, in spite of his injuries, and in pitch darkness, kept perfectly cool and told the others what to do. He found that one of his companions was trapped under some overturned tubs and, with help, he managed to extricate him.

He is just the sort of spirited lad needed by our vital coal industry.

The Children's Newspaper, January 10, 1948

PIGEON POST TO PELSART ISLAND

A PIGEON-POST service has just been started between Geraldton, on the West Australian Coast, and Pelsart Island, in the Abrolhos group. The birds will carry messages written on cigarette papers over the 36 miles of water separating island and mainland. At present there is no regular communication and the Postmaster-General's Department has been asked to provide cable or wireless equipment.

On the map the Abrolhos islands are just a few specks in the Indian Ocean. In 1628 a high-pooped Dutch merchantman, The Batavia, was wrecked there. The crew was able to get ashore with some provisions, and the ship's master, Francis Pelsart, made a remarkable voyage to Batavia in a small boat for help. While he was away half the crew mutinied and slew most of the others. Captain Pelsart returned with another ship, captured the mutineers and hanged all but two on the spot. The remaining two were put ashore and never heard of again.

WONDERS FOR SCHOOLBOYS

THERE is still time to visit the Schoolboys' Own Exhibition at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, which closes on January 10. This year is the Exhibition's 21st birthday.

Among the many fascinating exhibits is John Cobb's car in which he won the world's land speed record of 394.2 m.p.h. last summer, at one time touching 403 m.p.h. There is a unique collection of 10,000 tin soldiers made by Captain A. B. Lightbody, R.A. The coalfields' marvellous new machine, the A B Mecco Moore Cutter Loader, is on view. It cuts and loads coal, setting up roof props as it advances.

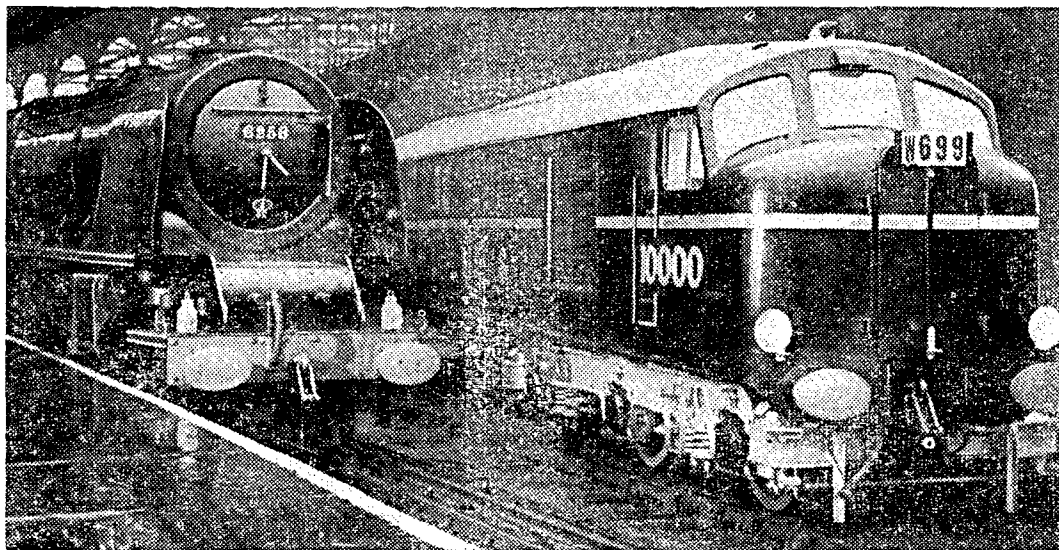
At other stands a visitor can record his own voice and listen to it being played back; he can see a safety razor being made; and can do some bird watching. There are several competitions in Art, Handicrafts, Models, Stamp Collecting, all carrying very fine prizes.

Admission is 1s for young people and 1s 9d for adults.

Olympic Hope



Eileen Pretty of Bristol, holder of the Gloucestershire 100 and 200 yards championships, is among the Olympic Games "probables."



A Train of the Future

The first main-line diesel-electric locomotive in this country—LMS 10,000—will shortly be put into service on the L M Region. Here we see the new locomotive at Euston Station.

Changing Fashion at Sea

As the four-masted barque Pamir sailed into the Thames at the end of her famous voyage from New Zealand, there was another visitor to the Port of London—the P & O liner Strathaird.

The modern vessel had been refitted on Tyneside, and her two dummy funnels had been removed, leaving only the genuine one. The old windjammers carried no spare canvas for show, but there has been a fashion to provide their successors with make-believe funnels to impress the landlubber passengers. Now the tendency is to reduce the number of funnels to those required for strictly business purposes only. The proud P & O ship need not blush to meet such an honest old veteran as the Pamir.

NIPPER SOMETIMES RINGS

NIPPER, who belongs to a family living in a farmhouse near Ashford, is a very clever dog. He not only warns them when someone is approaching the house, but can also let them know whether the visitor is coming inside the grounds. When he sees someone coming, Nipper barks furiously and runs along the inside of the fence, watching. If the visitor passes by he watches him out of sight, but should he stop at the gate the little dog reaches up, grabs the end of a bell-rope, and tugs vigorously until someone comes from the house.

He Changed Hands

GEOFFREY HARROWER, a member of the Middlesex County table tennis team who has also appeared for England on many occasions, was a right-handed player when he took up the game some years ago. Today he is one of the finest left-handers in the game, and it happened in this way.

Geoff met with a nasty fall while taking a jump on a steeple-chaser and broke his right wrist. When he tried to regain his former skill at table tennis he found himself unable to play with any confidence. Everyone thought that his promising career had ended, but he started to play with his left hand and after countless hours of practice returned to the first-class game with all his old skill.

FOR SICK ANIMALS

Not long ago the first of a fleet of Caravan Dispensaries belonging to the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, which are to commemorate the war service of animals and birds, was dedicated at Westminster Abbey by the Dean of Westminster.

These caravans tour the country bringing help to sick and suffering animals. Each one has modern equipment, with drugs, instruments, heating apparatus, sink with hot water, lethal boxes, and so on.

The one dedicated in Westminster bears the inscription: Allied Forces Animals' War Memorial, in gratitude to the animals and birds which died on active service 1939-45.

CN PAINTING TEST

The many thousands of paintings entered for the CN Autumn Term Painting Test have now been judged, and it is hoped to publish the names of winners in next week's CN.

Stamp News

GREAT BRITAIN will issue three sets of stamps during 1948. In April, special 2½d and £1 stamps will commemorate the silver wedding of the King and Queen. In May, 1d and 2½d stamps will mark the anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands. In July special stamps will mark the opening of the Olympic Games.

THE union of the Dodecanese Isles with Greece has been commemorated with a special issue of eight stamps.

NEW stamps for India will not feature the King's head.

A MAURITIUS orange-red penny stamp of 1847 has been found by an Australian stamp dealer. Only 12 others are known to exist, each of them worth over £4000.

IN view of the increased postal rates for parcels, Britain has introduced an 11d stamp.

THE French Government will shortly introduce a new postage stamp commemorating General Leclerc, Commander of the French Desert Army, and liberator of Paris, who recently lost his life in an air crash in the Sahara.

Phaeocystis and the Herring

THIS year's herring season has, unhappily, proved one of the most disappointing on record. The herrings which, during November, usually swarm in vast shoals have been found only in small numbers. Often they have remained near the bed of the sea. The fishing industry has lost millions of pounds in consequence.

The blame for the poor herring catches has been laid on the minute, evil-smelling organism, phaeocystis, described not long ago in the CN. Clouds of these specks of life in the sea have upset the usual movements of the herring shoals.

Let us hope that winter storms and cold will kill off the phaeocystis so that the smelly little creatures will not be there next season to keep our herrings and kippers from us.

CHAMPIONS OF DRAMA

THAT fine actor and playwright Dr Harley Granville-Barker, was intensely devoted to the cause of drama, and in 1919 he helped to found the British Drama League, which has become such a powerful supporter of dramatic art.

The other day in the splendid library of the League's headquarters at 9 Fitzroy Square, London, a bronze bust of Harley Granville-Barker was unveiled, to serve as a permanent reminder of this great man of the theatre.

From Oslo to London

FOR more than two weeks a huge Christmas tree, 48 feet high, a gift from Norway, has been delighting Londoners. It was set up in Trafalgar Square, and every evening it has been sparkling with lights.

The tree was sent as an expression of admiration for the people of London from the people of Oslo.

Norway is the home of the Christmas tree, and so established is the custom in that land that during the war bold Norwegians insisted on risking their lives every year to bring a Christmas tree across the North Sea from their Nazi-occupied country for their King Haakon in Britain.

WILD DEER IN BERKSHIRE

A HERD of fallow deer that have escaped through broken fences from an old park at Hampstead Marshall in Berkshire have been damaging farmers' and cottagers' vegetable crops. During the war it was impossible to keep the Hampstead Park fences in repair and the deer got out and now live wild in the woods and the deep bracken.

Hampstead Park is associated with the colourful and eccentric character of Sir Balthazar Gerbier, a 17th-century Dutch architect who settled in England. In the park are eight pairs of huge stone gateposts, the lingering memory of Balthazar's dream of building here a great house for Sir William Craven which was to be like Heidelberg Castle. Sir Balthazar lived to see his dream coming true but died while supervising the work in 1667. Later, that great house was burned down and only the gateposts are left.

TEACHERS HELP TEACHERS

AMERICAN teachers have been subscribing to a fund to help teachers in war-devastated countries. The Fund was started by the National Education Association of the U.S., in consultation with Unesco.

Food, clothing, and other supplies will be bought and sent to teachers in the lands whose needs are greatest. Speaking of the fund, a high Unesco official said it will give renewed hope and courage to thousands of teachers who are weary, discouraged, sick, hungry, and lacking needed materials and training. It is particularly gratifying, he said, that this is not regarded as charity, but is rather a demonstration of the unity of teachers throughout the world.

The Drum Major



A young Drum Major shows his skill with the mace at an Army bands school.

All Eyes On the Cup

No sporting competition attracts greater interest throughout Britain than the Football Association Cup tournament, which enters its most important stage on Saturday, January 10. Wherever Britons gather, throughout the world, the Cup is discussed and is frequently referred to as the "English" Cup. The correct title, however, is the Football Association Challenge Cup.

Today the later rounds of this great competition are played off, almost without exception, by the prominent professional clubs, but the F.A. Cup owes its origin to some of the finest amateur clubs in the land. When the competition was proposed, in 1871, the project was supported by such clubs as Queen's Park, the famous Glasgow amateur organisation; the Royal Engineers; The Wanderers; Donnington School; Marlow; Maidenhead; and the Civil Service; all of whom, in those far-off days, were as famous as are Arsenal, Aston Villa, and Sunderland today. Oxford University also competed in those early years.

Fifteen clubs in all formed the first Cup competition and between them they subscribed a sum of £25 to purchase a trophy. When the first games of that 1871-72 season were played, however, only twelve clubs accepted, and had it not been for the support in later years of the big clubs from the Midlands and the North the competition could not have been kept alive.

Today the annual F.A. Cup Competition starts on the first day of the football season, when dozens of minor clubs enjoy the thrill of playing in this nationwide tournament. Over 800 teams set out on the road that leads to the Cup Final at Wembley, but today there is very little chance of an amateur club having its name inscribed on the beautiful silver cup.

YESTERDAY & TODAY



The Town Crier

Many an old English town retains its town crier to make local announcements. With his handbell and cry of "Oyez! Oyez!" he is a picturesque link with the days when newspapers were scarce and expensive.



Land Workers Go Underground

Miners at Snowdown Colliery, Kent, paid a visit to neighbouring farms, and here we see some of the landgirls about to descend the shaft during their return visit. With them is 72-year-old Mrs Allbeury, who also works on the land.

TICKLING THE AUSTRALIAN DESERT

It is good news that Australia is to supply Britain with 80 million bushels of wheat. Never was the need for it more urgent both in the Mother Country and in other areas for which Britain is responsible. The wheat becomes available at this time because generally in Australia it is sown in April or May (the Australian autumn) and reaped before Christmas.

Owing to the comparative scarcity of rain in much of Australia's wheatlands the farmers, "down under" often practise the method known as "dry farming." If there is not enough rain to produce a crop every year the farmer sows every second year, frequently harrowing the soil to break it up and keep down the weeds. Special types of wheat which will grow

in drier areas have also been cultivated.

A familiar sight during an Australian harvest is the "auto-header" harvesting machine. This strips off the ears only, and guides them into big drums where they are shaken to divide the grain from the husks. Thereafter the grain is poured out in sacks ready for shipment. The Australian farmer does not need straw for cattle, so the wheat stalks which are left standing in the fields are ploughed into the soil for the next crop.

By such methods the hard-working Australian farmer has grown crops on land which used to be considered useless for the purpose. As an Australian once wrote: The good old Australian "desert" only waited to be tickled—into baker's loaves.

Tree of the Silver Apricots

GROWING in the garden of a house occupied by the British Y.W.C.A., at Iserlohn in Germany, is a remarkable ginkgo, or maidenhair, tree.

These fascinating trees, usually found only in China and Japan, have been grown since ancient times near temples in China, where they are regarded as sacred.

Originally introduced into Europe by a Dutchman in 1754, they live for centuries. At Peking there are some 2000-year-old ginkgo trees with a circumference of more than 16 feet. These trees have been described as living fossils. The maidenhair tree is "an emblem of changelessness, a heritage from worlds too remote for our human intelligence to grasp, a tree which has in its keeping secrets of the immeasurable past," declared the late

Professor Seward, of Cambridge.

With its fan-shaped leaves, the Iserlohn tree stands more than 50 feet high, and it has a girth of ten feet. Some distance from the ground the trunk divides into two, and still higher up one of these also divides.

The ginkgo's fruit grows in bunches on stalks. It is about the size of a plum, and has a fleshy coating round the stone. The Chinese roast the kernels and eat them as dessert nuts; they call the fruit "silver apricots." The kernels are also used for medical purposes and for oil extraction.

Europe's best-known maidenhair tree is in the University Botanical Garden at Utrecht, where it was introduced from Japan. It is "young"—only about 200 years old. There is one about 150 years old in Kew Gardens.

The Editor's Table

FILMS SHAPE CITIZENS

THE cinema is perhaps a more powerful influence in the shaping of our future citizens than any other factor in our national life. On every day of the week there are thousands of children in our cinemas, and on Saturday morning the Cinema Clubs attract audiences composed entirely of eager, impressionable youngsters.

It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that we learn that three Government Ministers have appointed a committee to consider and report on the effects of attendance at the cinema on children under 16, especially at cinema clubs; and whether, in the light of these effects, any modification is desirable in the present system of film classification, of the conditions of children's admission to cinemas, or in the organisation, conduct, and management of children's cinema clubs.

Do children get the kind of films they really like? That is an important question, and it was recently investigated by the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. Their report was that too many films for children are made without any real contact with children or even the teachers of children.

The best teacher of children is the adult who can enter into the mind of the child and cease to be an adult telling the child what is good for him. Our film-makers may learn some useful lessons from schoolteachers who have given years to the study as well as the practice of educating children.

MUCH good work is already being done, of course; particularly by Mr Rank's Advisory Council on Children's Entertainment Films. This Council, under the Chairmanship of Lady Allen of Hurtwood, comprises representatives of three Government departments, the B.B.C. and national organisations interested in children's welfare. But there is a strong case for teachers and film-makers being more closely linked than at present they appear to be. So let all who make films designed for young audiences do two things: take teachers into their confidence from the very start, and get the opinion of children themselves on their plans.

Film-making has reached high standards of technical excellence in the field of entertainment, but there is much room for further experiment in the world of teaching and instruction. If our children are already "cinema-minded," as is often said, our film experts have a profound responsibility.

FILMS are an instrument of unbounded possibilities, for they help to shape citizens; and control of their influence is one of the major tasks of our times.

V G or Fair?

At the end of last term, a Twickenham preparatory school introduced a novel method of compiling school reports—thirty pupils wrote their own reports!

Needless to say, the final verdict did not end there. The children were invited to choose phrases written on the blackboard which they thought they deserved for each subject taken at the school. Then their own valuations were discussed with the teachers.

Presumably, if young Jimmy thought he was a wizard at figures, and was not, his assessment of "Very good" was reduced to "Only fair," or perhaps "Poor." But at least the scholar knows where he stands, after discussion, for he took home no surprises on that all-important document.

BOOK-STARVED YOUTH

YOUNG people of the English-speaking world have much the same taste in books, as the American Children's Book Council recently showed. The 13 most popular children's books in the U.S.A. are: Mother Goose, Grimm's Fairy Tales, Pilgrim's Progress, Aesop's Fables, Robinson Crusoe, Andersen's Fairy Tales, Little Women, Treasure Island, Peter Rabbit, Heidi, Alice in Wonderland, Hans Brinker, and Tom Sawyer.

But this Book Council also made the astonishing revelation that in America, the richest country in the world, there are eleven million children who have never possessed a book.

A shelf well filled with favourite books is the proudest possession of many boys and girls, and it is disturbing to think that there may also be many thousands of young British folk who have never known this joy. It is true that school and public libraries do much to meet the need, but borrowing books is not so satisfying as having one's own library, however small.

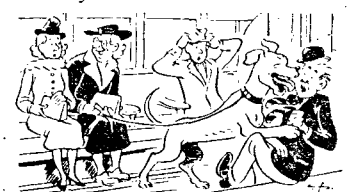
Under the E

Essex schoolchildren are to be given lessons in table manners. Not multiplication table manners.

A DUTCH doctor thinks that in London more shops should provide tea in the open. Londoners prefer it in teapots.

A SCOTSMAN says he means to spend the winter in London. But he will have to spend something else as well.

A LADY has bought some chairs to harmonise with her carpet. Evidently musical chairs.



"OH no! Rover's never any trouble to me when I take him out."

YOUTH AFLAME

A STIRRING call to Britain's youth to fight pessimism has been made by Dr Garbett, Archbishop of York, in his diocesan gazette.

It is of vital importance (he writes), both to the Church and the State, that its youth should not catch the "couldn't care less" attitude to life. Youth is naturally optimistic and idealistic. We must see that it is given reasonable grounds for the enthusiasm and hopefulness with which it faces life.

The Archbishop goes on to say that the Church needs a League of Youth aflame for the Kingdom of God and full of laughing challenge to the Weary Villies and prophets of evil.

These are salutary words, and in this New Year of hope we should like to see them written large on the walls of every church, school, hostel, and club—everywhere, in fact, where youth foregathers.

THINGS SAID

OUR people have responded magnificently on all sides to the demands that have been made upon them.

Sir Stafford Cripps

ANY man or woman in this country who does an honest day's work should feel a part, and a very real part, of the greatest team of all, the British people.

General Sir William Slim

It's happiness that counts; making people happy is the real thing. It's not money.

J. Arthur Rank

I HOPE that flying time between England and Australia will be reduced within a reasonable period to 40 hours, and in our lifetime to 24 hours.

Minister of Civil Aviation

Threat to an Ancient Shire

HEREFORDSHIRE folk are most indignant at a proposal of the Boundary Commission to amalgamate their county with Worcestershire, and their County Council have resolved to resist the proposal.

The suggestion certainly seems rather ruthless. Tradition plays a great part in the life of our nation, and Herefordshire has a long history and its people a strong county-consciousness.

Herefordshire probably first became a shire in the reign of King Athelstan. It is mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle in 1051. It was governed by a sheriff in the reign of Edward the Confessor. The Diocese of Hereford was founded in 676. The first Norman castle to be built on English soil was built in this border county.

The Boundary Commission is doing a job which is necessary to the better administration of the country as a whole; nevertheless it is a sad thought that any of our counties should be threatened with removal from the map.

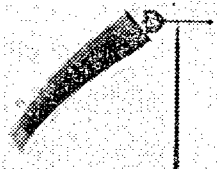
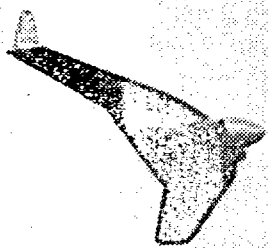
SLIGHT SKID

AN old colleague of the C.N., writing to us from Kent in the last days of the Old Year, mentioned that as he penned the letter a tortoiseshell butterfly fluttered on to the page. It was a pleasant reminder of brighter days, and he went on to tell us of his holiday last year, when he and his wife toured Switzerland on their tandem.

Our friend concluded by gently reprimanding the C.N. for a "lapse from literary excellence" when we used the objectionable term "push bike." Before such a doughty cyclist it is only possible to bow the head and ask pardon; and to assure him that in future we will not say "push bike" when we mean bicycle.

JUST AN IDEA

As Schiller wrote, *A deep meaning often lies in strange old customs.*



Flying Wing

Shaped like a boomerang, the new Armstrong Whitworth plane without a tail makes a strange sight during a trial flight.

RUNNING 100 MILES

AMONG the South African athletes who will compete in the Olympic Games is Walter Hayward, the Union's finest long-distance runner, and he may well win one of the titles.

South Africa has always been famous for its runners, especially marathon men, but never has she had a more outstanding one than Arthur Newton.

It was on January 7, just 20 years ago, that this slim South African achieved one of the greatest endurance feats in the annals of sport. Newton set out from the Bear Inn at Bath, on a bitterly cold winter's day, and despite driving snowstorms and stretches of road that were under water, he completed an amazing non-distance stop run of just over 100 miles by reaching Hyde Park in London in 14 hours 22 minutes. This was an astonishing feat for any man, but Arthur Newton was then 45!

During his career—and actually he did not take up running until he was 39—Newton claims to have run over 100,000 miles.

A Fine Scheme

THE Vacation Work Scheme for students of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, is a fine contribution to the cause of international friendship and understanding.

A number of Imperial College students are accommodated in business firms abroad every summer, while about the same number from those countries participating in the exchange are accommodated in British firms. The organisers have been able to secure more or less standardised scales of payment and hours of work.

During last year, says the Annual Report, 105 Imperial College students spent their summer vacation abroad, in eight European countries, and 116 foreign students came here; and the reports of the students provided abundant evidence of the educational value of the scheme.

They Named a Planet in Her Honour

ON the Ninth of January just a century ago Caroline Lucretia Herschel, one of the most gifted and delightful women the world has ever known, died at Hanover, aged 97. Lucretia, a minor planet, was named after her and right well did she deserve the honour, for she herself discovered no fewer than eight comets.

The youngest of eight children, Caroline Herschel was made into a household drudge by her mother. Nevertheless, her genius survived, and with it an unlimited fund of devotion to those she loved, especially her elder brother, Sir William Herschel, the distinguished astronomer. When she was 22, Sir William brought her to England to live with him, first at Bath, and afterwards at Slough; and when he died, in 1827, such was her grief that she banished herself from her dearly loved England and the charming and illustrious people she knew there, and returned to Hanover, the willing slave of all who chose to impose upon her. She had a pension of £50 a year from the British Government and another £100 a year from her brother William's estate, but she gave the bulk of it away, feeling passing rich on the slight remainder.

She was a tiny, pretty, bird-like little woman, famous as having shared William's grand discoveries, although it was her dying wish that on her coffin only the most modest allusion to her, as his humble assistant, should be inscribed. "I did nothing for him but what a well-trained puppy dog would have done," she once said. Nevertheless, she was the one woman in Hanover whom scientists of every nation paused to visit on their way across Europe. She had a lovely voice and sang in public, with her beloved William conducting the orchestra, as he did regularly, until astronomy claimed the whole energies of them both.

Although the leading astronomer of the age, Herschel was too poor at the outset to buy a good reflecting telescope; he made the one with which he discovered the planet Uranus, with Caroline keeping him alive and assisting his work. She used to read to him while he was busy polishing mirrors; and she used to bring him his meals, feeding him, moreover, so that he should not be disturbed "by putting the victuals by bits into his mouth."

In spite of it all, she somehow managed to find time for discoveries of her own, but the world values her chiefly for her toil for him, for it was with a zest and perception not inferior to his own that she made her sweeps of the bright night skies, and added to our knowledge of the Heavens.

Church and Stage

A FEW weeks ago the C.N. described how the Miracle Plays of the Middle Ages helped the Church to teach the Gospel by presenting episodes drawn from the Bible.

Now the Scottish Church is to use the theatre for a similar purpose. Some time ago a small theatre in Edinburgh was given to the Church by an anonymous benefactor, and this will be used to produce plays which will set people thinking about religion. Appropriately enough, the first play chosen for the Gateway Theatre, as it is called, is James Bridie's Tobias and the Angel, and this has just been staged by an all-Scottish cast.

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW
If clockmakers are
always marking
time



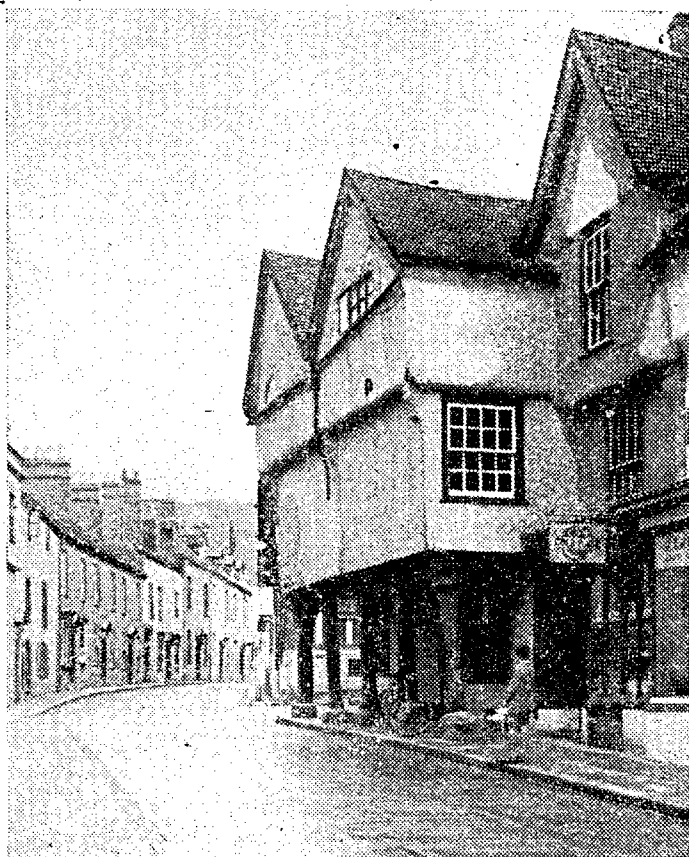
BREEZY people are often concealing their nervousness. Have got the wind up.

AN Italian orator can run on indefinitely. But sometimes he doesn't run far enough.

A MANAGING lady says she sits on a great many committees. Nobody dares to sit on her.

YOU can tell a man's profession by his looks. But all who have lines in their faces are not poets.

SOMEONE complained that pieces of rubber were found in school soap. To make bouncing boys?



THIS ENGLAND

Overhanging gables of old houses at Ledbury, Herefordshire

"Pickled" Battleships

A NUMBER of ships of the Royal Navy are now being "pickled" as a safeguard against rust which might well run them as they lie idle at their moorings.

Years of research by scientists-chemists have now made it possible to seal the ships against corrosion similar to that which did damage to many fine ships after the 1914-18 war. By the use of so called cocoons of plastic involving a network of special tape and netting over light frames an effect resembling a vast honeycomb is achieved. When webbing lacquer has been sprayed on and six alternate coats of black and aluminium plastic have been applied to the structure a covering that is both watertight and airtight results.

Armaments turrets radio and radar and other equipment are thus protected all moisture being excluded so that it can do no harm. Experts say this is a big improvement on the old method of applying lots of grease to everything movable aboard the warships.

In America, this scientific laving up of naval vessels has been brought to a fine art. Since 1946 the task of sealing 1931 ships including 680 combat ships has been proceeding steadily. The plastic covering is given two coats of aluminium paint to counter infra-red sun rays.

KENT'S HIDDEN TREASURE

THERE is good news from the Kent coalfield for not only are the miners keeping up their run of record-breaking weeks but they are asking the National Coal Board to open up new pits in the district.

These men most of whom came originally from coalfields in other parts of the country know that there is good coal below the surface of the Kent farm lands and they have asked that the reports of 'borings' made over thirty years ago should be examined that at least one new pit should be sunk, and that work should be begun again at two places where preliminary

work was abandoned during the First World War. It is also known that there are extensive deposits of iron in Kent.

The abandoned 'borings' are widely spaced in the coal-belt some near Dover others in Thanet one in the valley of the Stour between Canterbury and Ashford and one within a stone's throw of the "Stone Street" (which connected Canterbury with Lymington in Roman times) at Street End.

A new pit say the miners combined with new methods in the mines will help very materially in the nation's recovery.

WHO WAS HE?

BORN ON GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 6 1483 HE BECAME ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ARTISTS. THIS DRAWING IS TAKEN FROM A SELF-PORTRAIT.



ONE DAY HE SKETCHED A MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN ON THE LID OF A BARREL AND FROM THIS SKETCH PAINTED HIS FAMOUS MADONNA.

ON ANOTHER OCCASION AN ANGRY MOB RUSHED INTO HIS STUDIO TO KILL HIM BUT WERE OVERAWED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE PICTURE OF THE MOTHER OF JESUS ON HIS EASEL AND LEFT IN SILENCE.



HIS LAST GREAT WORK, JESUS ASCENDING WAS UNFINISHED WHEN HE DIED ON HIS BIRTHDAY, APRIL 6 1520.

WHO WAS HE?

SEE BACK PAGE

Picture-Story of a Great Painter

Concrete Railroads

THE great timber shortage is having a serious effect on the supply of wooden sleepers so British railways are now experimenting with concrete sleepers.

At Colwall near Malvern the first concrete sleepers were tried out and a section of the old LMS track near Hitchin is now equipped with them. The ideal railway sleeper so necessary to a perfect-running track is the one which is equal to the life of the rail it supports, thus reducing track maintenance to a minimum. Concrete cracks under heavy pressure and experiments showed that the heavy weight of railway engines and trains soon rendered concrete by itself useless as a sleeper.

But the concrete sleeper now likely to be used widely on railways in Britain and Europe has at its heart strips of tensile steel, tested to withstand the strain of 100 tons a square inch.

Since the early experiments in making concrete sleepers a factory to make them in large numbers has been established at Tallington near Stamford in Lincolnshire. The steel lines are inserted into the concrete moulds in twenty separate production lines, oxy acetylene cutters being used to cut through the concrete and the wires to make sleepers of the right length.

From Tallington concrete sleepers are now being exported to Egypt, India, South Africa, and the Sudan.

all the people have been poor and not every column has been attacked by marauders. Exposure and starvation have alas reaped a dreadful harvest and tens of thousands of the homeless wanderers have been cruelly massacred.

Nevertheless the C.N. observer saw hope beginning to spring up. Both in India and Pakistan he has met men of good will who want to plan a better life for the millions who have to make new homes. Fortunately there are signs of agreement and mutual adjustment between the two Dominions and for us in Britain it is important to remember that this immense migration which is leading to the re-making of India's map is confined to about three per cent of her people.

"My first sight of a great convoyed column was about thirty miles from Delhi. I had a standing seat on an army lorry travelling up the grand trunk road from Delhi to the north-west. I could see this very straight road until it dipped over the horizon and as far as eye could see the procession covered it—thousands of men and women slowly tramping to the edge of the world with their burdens."

On another occasion this observer rode for 20 miles alongside a caravan of ox-wagons occasionally stopping for a talk or first-aid work. Some of the groups made attractive pictures clustered round a well and many of the sights could not have differed much from those witnessed by Moses.

All this vast migration began spontaneously when the two new Dominions of India and Pakistan were hardly born. The wonder is that the collapse of administration was not even greater. Because of what has happened Pakistan has lost the services of most of its professional and commercial classes and has to begin recruiting anew for government service. That part of North India which is affected is without many of its artisans and technicians and looters and brigands have taken full advantage of the plight of their countrymen.

Ox-wagons and camel trains have carried many of the migrants but for the most part these millions have walked. Not

THE FASTEST SWIMMER

SEVERAL special swimming galas are being held in Scotland this month to raise funds for a memorial to that wonderful swimmer Nancy Riach, who died so tragically in Monaco last summer and one of the world's champions who will be appearing is 18-year-old Alex Jany.

With the approach of the Olympic Games Jany's appearances in these memorial galas will be watched with keen interest for experts consider the French boy to be the most phenomenal swimmer of the century. Already he has set up a world's record of 55.8 seconds

for the 100 metres at Mentone and 4 minutes 35.2 seconds for the 400 metres and he has not yet reached the peak of his powers. In the forthcoming Olympics he is expected to set up new records.

Alex Jany son of a well known swimmer who is now superintendent at the Toulouse Baths has a wonderful physique, he stands 6 feet 2 inches and weighs 16 stone. His large hands and feet (he wears size 13 in shoes) give him great propelling power in the water and help to make him one of the world's greatest all round swimmers.

THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW FOREST—Picture Version of Captain Marryat's Story



The Roundheads accepted Jacob Armitage's explanation, and left. Simple Jacob thought Cromwell's men were wicked people who would harm the children. He told the orphans they must live with him and call themselves Armitage. He taught spirited Edward to stalk deer, while Humphrey, a more thoughtful lad, proved himself useful digging, and tending the pigs and chickens.



Alice and Edith were the housekeepers. They became useful little cooks and needlewomen. Jacob took venison to sell in Lymington and bought things they needed. Every evening the kindly old man read the Bible to them and they all knelt in prayer. Edward and Humphrey could read and they taught their sisters. Thus, while they saw nobody but Jacob, a winter passed and another set in.



Old Jacob fell ill. He agreed that Edward should go to fetch some puppies promised by a keeper. "Be sure to call yourself Armitage," he warned. Outside, Edward asked Humphrey: "Why all this secrecy?" "The trouble is," replied Humphrey, "Parliament have taken Armitage because father fought for the King. If they knew you, the heir, were alive, they might imprison you."



As he rode on Edward felt he hated the Roundheads. He longed to fight for the King. When he reached the Lodge, the keeper was out, but a pretty girl of 14, whom he did not know, said her father would see him. She explained that he was a Puritan commissioned by Cromwell to take charge of the New Forest! Edward's eyes blazed. The Forest, he was sure, was still the King's.

Will the young Cavalier defy the old Roundhead? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, January 10, 1948

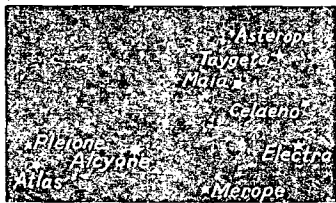
THE GRANDEUR OF THE PLEIADES

By the C N Astronomer

THE Pleiades, that lovely star-cluster in the constellation of Taurus, which was referred to in the C N of December 27, has for many thousands of years received the admiration of mankind.

From ancient Egypt to ancient China temples have been dedicated and oriented to the Pleiades; and Greek temples as early as 1530 B.C., and later the famous Parthenon of Athens were oriented to these sacred Seven Stars which represented the daughters of Atlas, the Giant who supports the world on his shoulders. These seven sisters of Greek mythology were Alcyone, Merope, Celaeno, Taygeta, Asterope, Electra, and Maia. All these stars may be identified from the map, together with the nymph Pleione which accompanies Atlas. Only six of these are generally visible to ordinary sight, but keen eyes may perceive seven, or even more.

The ancients, however, could perceive seven as a rule. Many regarded them as the Heralds of



The chief stars of the Pleiades as seen through field-glasses

Spring; they were also likened to a flight of symbolical doves. Now we know that, instead of seven, upwards of 2000 glittering stars are there and that they are actually in flight toward the south, a glorious congregation of radiant and rapidly-revolving orbs, far hotter than our Sun and most of them much larger. The brightest, Alcyone, radiates 500 times more light and heat from a surface nearly three times hotter than that of our Sun.

Most of these great stars are enveloped in incandescent helium at a bluish-white heat of some 20,000 degrees centigrade, and are surrounded by vast whirling streams of radiant nebulosity. It would take light between 30 and 40 years to cross from one side to the other of this Pleiades Cluster. Most of this vast area is filled with this filmy nebulous radiance which resembles that in the Great Orion Nebula, the centre of which can be seen with the naked eye.

Whirling Particles

An offshoot of the great Orion Cluster, the Pleiades are an outlying "island cluster" that is much nearer to us. The mass of the Orion stars average 600 light-years distance, whereas the Pleiades are an average of 326 light-years' journey away—about 20,632,000 times farther than our Sun! The streams of nebulous radiance are produced by colossal masses of cosmic matter, exceedingly fine particles which reflect the helium light that is radiated from all these stars. These particles are seen to be whirled into vast streams that reveal rapid motion.

Field-glasses or even a small telescope will reveal from 30 to 50 stars and a radiant glow pervading the whole area, if the night be clear and dark. Each increase of telescopic power reveals more of the glory of the scene, but much more remains to be revealed.

G. F. M.

The Trains That Go to Sea

THE train ferry from Dover to Dunkirk is running again. In war-battered Dunkirk new lock gates have been built to allow the entrance into the dock of a huge ferry-steamer which has on board the coaches of a train—and their passengers.

The method of transferring loaded railway vehicles from Britain to the Continent on rails laid down on the deck of a ship began in the First World War—from Richborough to Calais and from Southampton to Le Havre; and Britain's first peace-time train ferry, between Harwich and Zeebrugge, was opened in 1924. The Dover to Dunkirk route was opened in 1936.

The traveller going to Paris, or beyond, via Dover and Dunkirk, enters the "Blue" train (so called because its coaches are coloured blue) at Victoria, goes to bed in his sleeping berth, and wakes up in Paris—if the sea is not too rough! While he sleeps, his carriage is shunted on the steamer-ferry at Dover.

This is a vessel 360 feet long and 60 feet wide, with twin funnels set side by side. It has four sets of railway lines on its main deck, which lies below the upper deck. These lines converge at the ship's stern, and here, by means of a short bridge, or gangway, they are connected exactly with the rails on the quayside. For this purpose the water in the dock in which the ship floats has to be kept at a constant level.

Chained to the Deck

The ferry steamer can hold 12 sleeping cars or 40 freight wagons, but at present only four sleeping cars are being detached from the Blue train at Dover and shunted on board, where they are sheltered by the vessel's sides and the upper deck above. The locomotive that has brought them to Dover does not go with them. The sleeping cars are securely

chained to their own deck and the ferry steams out into the night.

Passengers are kept warm by the ship's steam-heating system which is connected to the train's. They can, of course, leave the train if they wish and go to the upper deck, where there is a restaurant and a lounge.

When the ferry arrives at Dunkirk the process of accurately fixing the ship's railway lines to those on the quayside begins again. The coaches are drawn ashore by a shunting engine and are then hitched to the train for Paris.

The Three Ferries

There are three ferry steamers engaged on this service; they are named after the old ferries of London's river: the Twickenham Ferry, the Hampton Ferry, and the Shepperton Ferry. The Twickenham Ferry now sails under the French flag for the Angleterre-Lorraine-Alsace Company. The other two have, up till now, been sailing under the Southern Railway's flag. They will presumably hoist the colours of British Railways when these are decided on.

An important part of this train-ferry system is the transport of fragile or perishable goods—especially foodstuffs. The delay and possible damage caused to these by unloading and re-loading cargoes from shore to ship and ship to shore is avoided. Not long ago a consignment of poultry from Hungary came right through to London by train.

If we cannot have the Channel Tunnel, the train-ferry is the next best thing.

MONEY MATTERS

WHEN countries run short of small coins extraordinary substitutes are often used to assist shopkeepers to give change. But the postage stamps recently accepted as money in shops in the U.S. Zone of Germany were not particularly novel; stamps were used in Shanghai during a local crisis in July 1939, and during the First World War people in some Belgian towns inserted stamps in transparent discs and agreed to consider them as legal tender.

During the Spanish Civil War the Republicans called in their nickel coins for war purposes and issued cardboard substitutes. Habibullah Khan, who dethroned Amanullah of Afghanistan in 1929, also requisitioned all metal coins and issued leather ones—a practice resorted to 300 years earlier in his country.

Eight years ago banks in Newfoundland had to give boxes of matches instead of cash owing to a shortage of coppers; and in 1932, when the Citizens' Bank of Tenino, Washington, U.S.A., closed its doors, the local Chamber of Commerce authorised the issue of wooden dollars—little discs of Douglas pine!

Perhaps the queerest substitute

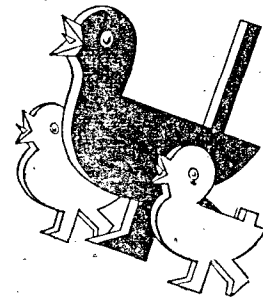
for national coinage, however, is the money used in Abyssinia. In 1780 Austrian traders introduced the handsome but unwieldy Maria Theresa thalers into several eastern countries, and they became so popular in Abyssinia that no attempt was ever made to withdraw them and issue a national coinage. Further supplies were minted in Vienna, and later in other countries, but every coin had to bear the old date, 1780. These Austrian thalers or dollars are still legal tender in Abyssinia to this day.

FEEDING CHAMPIONS

A LIVERPOOL firm has had the idea of helping the British athletes who will compete in the Olympic games by sending them parcels of protein food. The manager of the athletic team believes that the young men now training on the athletic grounds of Britain need more meat, fats, and sugar foods, but he is against asking for special rations or food privileges. That is the British spirit. So this gift of manufactured proteins is a helpful way of strengthening the champions who will put their best foot forward for Britain this summer.

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THE BRAN TUB

EX-SERVICE

Two friends met after a long interval.

"Hallo!" said Smith. "What are you doing now?"

"Oh, I'm an exporter," replied Jones.

"Exactly what do you mean by that?"

"I've lost my job on the railway."

Hot Work

A FAT little fellow named Taylor To his bicycle fitted a trailer. With his family therein He went for a spin, And came back much thinner and paler.

BRITISH TOWNS

HERE is a good game for your next party.

The players are seated round the room and the first one calls out the name of a town in Britain, and begins counting to ten. The next player has to name a town beginning with the last letter of the one just named. So the game goes round the room. Any player who fails to think of a town before the ten seconds has elapsed goes out of the game. Of course, the players must all count at the same rate. The game continues until there is only one left, and he or she is the winner.

Wisdom of Shakespeare

A GOOD heart is like the Sun, for it shines bright and never changes, but keeps its course truly.

BEDTIME CORNER

Cousin From Switzerland

WHEN Paul and Nancy heard that their little cousin was coming to stay, they were not at all pleased.

"She's too small to play our games," grumbled Paul. "She'll spoil everything."

"Wait and see," advised Mother. "Angeline will beat you at French, anyway; she has lived in Switzerland all her life."

"Who cares about French?" muttered Paul. (It was not his favourite lesson; he always mixed his genders.)

When Angeline arrived, it seemed as if Paul had been right. She was a quiet, timid little girl, not used to playing "Red Indians" and the other exciting games of her cousins. "And if she does speak French like a native," said Paul, "we can't understand her!"

That winter there were weeks when the country was covered with snow, and the ponds and rivers were frozen. The children took their home-made toboggan to the nearest hill to have a good time. But Angeline actually didn't like tobogganing! Her cousins couldn't leave her standing in the cold while they enjoyed themselves, so Paul said they had better go home again.

"Couldn't we skate on the pond?" suggested Angeline shyly.

"We haven't got any skates,"

objected Nancy. "Besides, we don't know how."

"I could teach you," cried Angeline eagerly. "I'll fetch my skates and meet you at the pond."

Presently she came running back, carrying the most splendid pair of skates the children had ever seen.

"Show us how you do it!" they begged. Then they watched open-mouthed as Angeline twirled and swooped and pirouetted on the ice in the most graceful way.



When Paul and Nancy each had a turn, they had many a tumble, but they laughed and thought it great fun; and they had to acknowledge that Angeline could beat them at skating as well as at French!

Jacko and Chimp to the Rescue



Jacko and Chimp just reached the pond when they saw someone in trouble.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Winter Chaffinches. Under the beech trees, flocks of small graceful birds fluttered to and fro. "Why, they're chaffinches!" exclaimed Don.

"Why not?" queried Farmer Gray, noting Don's surprise.

"I didn't think they gathered in flocks," replied the boy.

"Hen chaffinches always flock together during autumn and winter," said the farmer. "The cock birds are often seen in solitary state, and because of this it was at one time believed that they migrated. Chaffinches are probably the greatest seed eaters of all the finches, and as they eat the seeds of many harmful weeds, they are very useful."

More or Less

TIME is a most important thing—To learn, each child must press on.

He fails who spends more time on play, And less on his school lesson.



"Somebody has fallen in," said Jacko. "I'll lasso him with this rope."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Venus is in the south-west and Mars and Saturn are in the south-east. Uranus is in the south. In the morning Jupiter is low in the south-east and Mars is in the west. The picture shows the Moon at 7.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 8.



MISSING

A SNOWBALL met a Sheet of Ice. And they rejoiced together. "It is," they said, "extremely nice."

To have such frosty weather. But in the night a thaw took place,

And, greatly to our sorrow, Although we searched we couldn't trace

Those two upon the morrow.

COOL

THE much-travelled man had been talking for a long time of his adventures.

"Once, while I was sitting resting in Africa," he went on, "a lion came so close that I could feel its breath on the back of my neck. And what did I do?"

"Turned your coat collar up, I expect," said a bored listener.

Wear Them!

Now, why should shoes that are too tight

Bring winter hats to mind?

This may seem strange, but it is right.

For they are felt, you'll find!

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, January 7, to Tuesday, January 13

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Dick Whittington—a play.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Swish of the Curtain (Part 1). 5.40 Swallows and Amazons (Part 13). Scottish, 5.40 Books—a talk. Welsh, 5.30 Red Racer's Adventure; Puzzle Time; Television—a talk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Simple Simon—a story; A Norman and Henry Bones Adventure.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety. Midland, 5.0 New Year Children's Party.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Shoemaker of Brent—a play. 5.35 Pilgrimage to Mecca.

MONDAY, 5.0 Through the Looking Glass (Part 2). 5.25 Songs. 5.40 Film Review. Scottish, 5.25 The Hutman.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Black Beauty (Part 2); Records. 5.25 Nature Parliament. Scottish, 5.0 A Tammy Troot Story; Down at the Mains.



But what a surprise when they found it was only a scarecrow.

Who Was He?

THE man in the picture-story on Page 6 was Raphael.

VERY ODD

ONE day in March a man was born, yet, very strange to say. His birthday anniversary was always kept in May. He married his own sister, and she made a splendid wife. And yet he stayed a bachelor, unmarried all his life.

The explanation is, of course, that the man was born in March in Cambridgeshire, became a clergyman (who officiated at his sister's wedding), and remained unmarried.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES

Beheading
Stall (tall, all)

F	A	I	N	R	O	A
A	N	O	T	E	D	A
T	O	E	O	V	E	R
E	M	P	I	R	E	A
E	T	C	A	C	T	
E	C	I	N	L	A	I
D	A	N	C	E	R	O
E	A	L	T	E	R	N
T	A	P	E	T	T	Y
R	E					



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